Feature story: National climate action: Why cities matter

City in focus: uMhathuze Municipality, South Africa

Urban champion: Mayor of Bogor City, Indonesia

Project synergies: UN-Habitat’s Waste Wise Cities Campaign

Highlights from this issue...

New project resources

- **New guide** on Enhancing NDCs through urban climate action
- Multilevel governance factsheets for Lao PDR, South Africa, Indonesia and India
- Case study on Implementing low-carbon measures in a municipal school in Thane, India
- **Policy Solution** on Efficient Street Lighting using LED
1. Engaging a diverse range of urban stakeholders in NDC planning and implementation. NDCs can be enhanced through transparent communication of the NDC revision process, giving a diverse set of stakeholders the chance to provide quality inputs and engage. Coordinators should engage across sectors of all urban-relevant departments and organisations, and with all levels of government (national, subnational, and local), ensuring a fair and inclusive urban stakeholder representation.

2. Identify concrete policies and actions for integrating human settlements in the NDC, by applying an urban lens. Is the new NDC building on existing city climate and resilience plans and actions that are already contributing to NDC targets, and has the alignment with existing urban policy been assessed? Have urban mitigation and adaptation opportunities been conceptualised? Is there a clear finance strategy for each urban mitigation and adaptation opportunity, with responsibility, time frames, monitoring frameworks, and budgets considered? Have technology options that may enhance decarbonisation and resilience of urban environment been evaluated?

---

**Checklist for integrating urban climate actions into NDCs**

**Key Opportunity #A: Engage a diverse range of urban stakeholders in NDC planning in the process of the NDC revision:**

- Is there multi-sector engagement across all urban relevant departments/organisations? (A1)
  - YES
  - NO

- Invite staff from urban relevant department/organisations such as water, agriculture, housing, urban development, transport, finance, energy, etc to NDC planning workshops
  - NO

- Is there engagement across all levels of Government? (A2)
  - YES
  - NO

- Ensure sub-national urban relevant divisions from local (state, city, municipal) Government are invited to the NDC process
  - NO

- Is the urban stakeholder representation fair and inclusive? (A3)
  - YES
  - NO

- Include representatives from housing associations, civil society members, private sector, low-income migrants & marginalised social groups who will be dependent on mobility & housing decisions. Gender, youth etc.
  - NO

- Is there transparent communication of the NDC revision process? (A4)
  - YES
  - NO

- This could include the timelines for the revision process, the line ministry/organisation in charge potentially workshops for engagement/alternative solutions solicited for urban groups.
  - NO

- Clearly articulate how/which mechanisms need to be implemented to account for existing sub-national and national urban climate actions e.g. data collection.
  - NO

---
Country News in Brief

Bangladesh: Rajshahi conducts energy audit to enhance energy efficiency in buildings

Rajshahi city in Bangladesh recently undertook a detailed energy audit of its main municipal administrative building with the support of the Urban-LEDS II project. The purpose of the audit was to demonstrate possible opportunities and benefits from the adoption of energy-efficient solutions and technologies. Read the full story here

Field energy audit by experts and with municipal staff in progress at the RCC main office. © ICLEI SAS

Brazil: Webinars held on technical and financial viability of low carbon municipal projects in the energy sector

LEDS Lab webinars aimed to share with South American project municipalities the knowledge acquired during the development of the LEDS Lab pilot projects in the Brazilian cities of Belo Horizonte and Recife. Read the full story here

Colombia: Colombian cities advance in local climate action

A series of webinars were held from June to August 2020 aiming at supporting local actions for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction and adaptation to climate change. Read the full story here

Bogota, Colombia. © Flavia Carpio

India: Rajkot bags the one planet city challenge winner title

Rajkot city recently received recognition by being declared as the national winner of WWF’s One Planet City Challenge. Read the full story here

Solar PV system installed on social housing by Rajkot municipal corporation. © ICLEI SAS
**Country News in Brief**

**Indonesia:** Cities of Balikpapan and Bogor prioritize emission development strategies in local planning

Following the completion of GHG inventories, validation workshops were conducted to address remaining data gaps as well as address challenges in data gathering and to prioritize emission reduction strategies into local development planning. Read the full story here.

**Lao PDR:** Cities conduct GHG inventories and climate risk and vulnerability assessments

Validation workshops were conducted to verify initial findings of the GHG emission inventory and the climate risk and vulnerability assessment (CRVA). Findings from these two reports are crucial in ensuring evidence based integrated climate action planning for the cities of Pakse and Kaysone Phomvihane. Read the full story here.

**Rwanda:** Using community insight to understand hazards, risks, and disaster implications

New research completed in three Rwandan districts drives new insight and vigour for climate change mitigation and adaptation planning. Read the full story here.

**South Africa:** KwaDukuza triumphs as the national WWF One Planet City Challenge winner

KwaDukuza triumphs as the national WWF One Planet City Challenge winner. Read the full story here.

**Project synergies:** Waste Wise Cities Campaign

Waste Wise Cities was launched by UN-Habitat on World Habitat Day in 2018. Currently 2 billion people worldwide lack access to waste collection and 3 billion to controlled waste disposal. Waste Wise Cities is a programme that supports its member cities in the areas of Waste Data & Monitoring; Knowledge & Good Practices Sharing; Advocacy & Education; and Finance & Bankability Support. More than 150 cities have become members. Waste Wise Cities equips cities with in-depth understanding on evidence-based policy and intervention design and participatory project development process based on waste SDGs targets and indicators through provision of tools, guides and online courses, as well as best practice sharing. The Campaign was presented to participating cities during the recent online project nursery workshop hosted by the Urban-LEDS project; and further opportunities for supporting Urban-LEDS project cities in their waste management journeys are being identified.
Renowned for being an economic powerhouse in South Africa, the City of uMhlathuze is home to the biggest harbour on the continent, the largest coal export facility in the world, and many heavy industries, such as aluminium smelting. Over the years, the City of uMhlathuze has seen high in-migration from the rural areas in search of livelihood and education opportunities. This has increased the pressure on the City’s infrastructure, the built environment and exacerbated high energy consumption. Due to the nature of the industrial activity, the City of uMhlathuze is considered one of the areas with the highest greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in KZN, surpassing the City of eThekwini.

“Climate change has emerged as a cardinal pillar in local planning,” says Nontsundu Ndonga, Deputy Municipal Manager, City Development. “The City of uMhlathuze has heeded this call by acknowledging its impact at a local scale and has made concerted efforts to institutionalize mitigation and adaptation responses into service delivery functions of the City. Strategic policy initiatives such as the Integrated Urban Development Framework integrate climate change as a cornerstone theory of change to foster a risk-averse approach to budgeting, planning and climate proofing urban development.”

The Municipal Climate Change Action Plan is informed by a vulnerability assessment and incorporates priority and cross-cutting interventions as climate responses. The work is sanctioned by a core team, the “Green Team,” representing various departments across the municipality serving as a vehicle to mainstream climate action across the municipal functional departments. The institutionalization process has furthermore included civil society and partnerships with business. The core objective is to leave no one behind. This is even more prevalent in times of a health crisis, where issues of sustainability come to the fore. “The COVID-19 pandemic will no doubt alter the course of our developmental trajectory and, through our Economic Recovery Plan, growth and development must be cognizant of ecological parameters and reducing greenhouse emissions” says Ndonga. “Programs like Urban-LEDS II,” she says, “are a vehicle to frame our climate action responses and let us reflect on the importance of social partners in mobilizing an all-of-society approach to successfully implement our sustainability agenda.”

The City has also identified the need to proactively take a leading role by not only relying on external resources to address climate change, but to also mobilize the municipality’s own resources to carry out measures against climate change, such as compiling a GHG inventory and green building guidelines. These measures will support the City’s decision-making process going forward. Like many cities in South Africa, emissions from the City of uMhlathuze are predominately attributed to electricity consumption from stationary energy, notably the manufacturing and construction industry. This highlights the need to identify measures to be put in place by the municipality to reduce emissions in the specified sector. Although the municipality has no mandate over the manufacturing and construction sector’s energy usage, Council is the mandated authority for the approval of building plans for new buildings and the retrofitting of existing buildings. As such the municipality sees the green building guidelines as a stepping stone to reduce the emissions from the stationary energy sector in general. Going forward, the City of uMhlathuze sees strategic partnerships as imperative for the municipality for profiling, networks and access to programs and climate finance. As such, the municipality has embarked on programs with various partners in efforts to scale up responses to climate threats, with ICLEI’s Urban-LEDS II being one. The municipality’s involvement in the latter has also created opportunities for involvement in Smart Building Metering and the Training of Building Inspectors. 

Read online here
Urban champion: Dr. Arya Sugiarto, S.Hum., M.A., Mayor of Bogor City

Each newsletter, we hand over the mic to local government staff in Urban-LEDS cities, so they can tell you their story of promoting low-emission development in their municipalities.

Mayor of Bogor City (photo from Bogor City Government).

Three Identities of Bogor City
Bogor City has three identities, namely Green City, Smart City, and Heritage City that are in line with the city’s vision. To support this vision, Mayor Bima Arya signed the “Tri Karsa Bogor” (Partnership with Indonesian Cities) Declaration together with other pioneering Indonesian cities at Bogor Botanical Garden in 2015. Through the declaration, these 11 cities committed to realize low emission development, minimize negative impact of development to the environment and the society, and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

One of the most impactful city policies is the single-use plastic ban through Bogor Mayor Regulation No. 61 of 2018. The policy has helped reduce 41 tons of plastic waste per month based on the data reported by the Environmental Agency.

The City Development Principles
Mayor Bima Arya promotes four development principles for Bogor City: leadership; collaboration, integration and acceleration; Penta helix, a socio-economic development model that promotes collaboration from members of the society and the different levels of government; and, lastly, cultural development. “The four principles are complementary and cannot stand-alone,” explained Mayor Bima.

Mayor Bima Arya often conducts blusukan or site visits to monitor the ongoing city programs and to listen to the citizen’s aspiration. As he loves running and is active on social media, he reported the achievement of city in 2019 through his official Instagram account using the hashtag #BogorBerlari (Bogor Run). Among the current initiatives being prioritized by Mayor Bima include the development of public open spaces and city to achieve the 20% coverage target as stated in the spatial planning year 2011-2031; construction of pedestrian facilities, sidewalks and bike lanes in order to eliminate one point of congestion, encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport; provision of public infrastructures including health services and transportation will also continue to be improved.

Bogor City’s initiatives have been recognized both at the national and international level. In 2019 alone, the city garnered 81 awards and recognitions. During his tenure, the Mayor shared there are memories that will always be remembered, such as when Bogor City won the title of The Most Lovable City in the World in the 2016 We Love Cities global campaign event.

Read online here

Upcoming events and important announcements

Urban LEDS inspired Solution Session “Beyond Climate emergency: Turning ambition to action” at Mannheim2020 Conference.

2 October 2020, 9:30-11:00. Online!

Daring Cities 2020 -
https://daringcities.org/

For more information on the Urban-LEDS project:

www.urban-leds.org     contact@urban-leds.org     @ICLEI, @UN-HABITAT

Disclaimer: The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.